

## 2018 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS



September 12, 2018

Dear Benson Memorial Family,

Each year, we invite you to consider how you're going to participate in the life of our congregation through your financial giving. This year, we're inviting you to think about how 2019 is going to be different in all areas of your life; not just in how you give, but also in how you gather, grow, and go.

This means that the enclosed commitment card looks different than previous years. Along with space for you to consider your financial commitment to the church in 2019, there is also space for you to consider your commitment to gathering with others for worship, growing in your faith, and reaching out to the community. We want 2019 to be a year you look back on and remember as a year when you stretched yourself to become more generous, faithful, and loving. This sort of growth doesn't happen by accident, though. So we're inviting you to make a plan:

- Write your name or the name of your family on the outside of the pamphlet.
- Under the headings of *Gather*, *Grow* and *Go*, you'll find several activities you can commit to take part in in 2019. Put your name next to the activities you'd like to commit to.
- Be sure to make a commitment for **each** area: *Gather*, *Grow*, *Give*, **and** *Go*.
- If you have children or youth in your family, be sure to check out our online commitment forms specifically designed for them. These can be filled out at [www.bensonmemorial.org/home/forms/](http://www.bensonmemorial.org/home/forms/) under the headings *Youth* and *Children* at the bottom of the page.

For your financial giving this year, we're asking you to consider committing to giving a percentage of your annual income. Committing to a percentage is helpful because it gives you an accurate view of your giving in proportion to your income. It's also a reminder that we understand life ebbs and flows, jobs are gained and lost, and emergencies happen.

The chart on the next page is for you and your family to discuss prayerfully. It's meant to be a guide for conversation and contemplation. So grab a calculator and get comfortable, because talking about money doesn't need to be uncomfortable—even if it's not a part of regular conversation in your household. You are encouraged to start at 1% and build until you reach a number you are comfortable with.

**Benson Memorial United Methodist Church**  
4706 Creedmoor Road | Raleigh, NC 27612 | (919) 787-0789

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Example: Total household income is \$54,000. If we choose to give 2%, we calculate  $54,000 \times 0.02$ , so we would give \$1,080 to the church each year.

Our total household income is \$_____.		
If we choose to give 1%	Total income x 0.01	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 2%	Total income x 0.02	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 3%	Total income x 0.03	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 4%	Total income x 0.04	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 5%	Total income x 0.05	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 6%	Total income x 0.06	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 7%	Total income x 0.07	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 8%	Total income x 0.08	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 9%	Total income x 0.09	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.
If we choose to give 10%	Total income x 0.1	\$ _____ would be our annual gift.

Once you have discussed and prayed over your percentage, we ask that you transfer that number of estimated giving to your commitment card. Remember, giving was created for our benefit. It teaches us how to keep God first in our lives and how to be unselfish people. If you give, do it out of love for God, not guilt.

We can't wait to hear stories from you in the coming year about how being intentionally committed to *Gathering*, *Growing*, *Giving*, and *Going* changed your life and helped you become love. If you have any questions, you can contact your pastors or Business Manager Sally Lynch at (919) 787-0789.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kelly Lyn, Pastor Jeff, and the Stewardship Team

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